

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9 and 11-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 9 and 12 have been amended and claims 2 and 10 have been canceled. In particular, the features of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 3 has been placed into independent form.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Botsolas, U.S. Patent No. 4,054,710. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for lateral surfaces of the insulator to be inclined. Botsolas fails to disclose this feature.

Page 3 of the Office Action refers to Botsolas' Fig. 2. However, Fig. 2 is a fragmentary greatly enlarged sectional view of the article. Because Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view of the article, Fig. 2 does not illustrate the lateral surfaces of the article.

Page 3 of the Office Action also refers to Botsolas' col. 3, lines 44-55. However, Botsolas only states that the board can be compressed and reduced in thickness in a direction substantially normal to the planar fiber alignment. Botsolas thereafter describes the orientation of the strips 9. Botsolas fails to provide any disclosure with regard to lateral surfaces being inclined.

Claim 3 also calls for an insulator provided with longitudinal cuts on the lateral surfaces of the insulator so as to make the insulator partially compressible.

Page 3 of the Office Action refers to Botsolas' col. 3, lines 18-24 and Fig. 1. Col. 3, lines 18-24 states that the fiberglass boards may be cut into strips for rearrangement as strips 9. However, these cuts are along the vertical (up-down) direction as illustrated in Fig. 1. Because the cuts are along the vertical direction, the cuts are not longitudinal cuts on lateral surfaces of the insulator.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Botsolas in view of Berdan, U.S. Patent No. 5,350,063. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Berdan fails to overcome the deficiencies of Botsolas as applied to claims 1 and 3. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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